AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **AMEND** claims 1, 3, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 20.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer system for ranking one or more objects
having two or more attributes comprising:

one or more central processing units (CPUs) and one or more memories and one
or more network interface to one or more networks associated with the CPUs;

one or more visual interfaces which receives one or more objects having two or
more attributes, and visually presents the one or more objects;

one or more weight generator modules which receives the one or more objects
having two or more attributes and one or more objects ranked by one or more users,
and computes one or more weights of ~~one~~ the two or more attributes ~~of the objects~~; and

one or more multi-criteria decision analysis module which receives the one or
more objects having two or more attributes and one or more weights of ~~one~~ the two or
more attributes from the one or more weight generator modules ~~of objects~~, and
computes one or more scores of the one or more objects.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more
objects having two or more attributes include a sell bid used in online trading based on
one or more Request-For-Quote (RFQ) processes in ~~marketplaces~~ a marketplace.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the ~~one~~ two or more
~~attribute is~~ attributes include a pair of name and value, and is grouped into categories
including product specification, service specification and supplier qualification.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the product specification includes attributes such as price, material quality and properties, color and size.

5. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the service specification includes delivery time and cost, and warranty.

6. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the supplier qualification includes trading history, experience and reputation.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the visual interface presents a view of the one or more objects having two or more attributes in one or more parallel coordinates.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the parallel coordinates presents an attribute of an object by a parallel axis labeled by attribute name, and the object having two or more attributes by a collection of line segments connecting attribute value points located on the parallel axes representing attributes.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the visual interface allows one or more user to manually specify the ranks of the one or more objects having two or more attributes displayed in the visual interface.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the visual interface presents a view of the one or more objects having two or more attributes along with the one or more scores of individual objects of the one or more objects.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the visual interface presents a view of one or more objects having two or more attributes along with one or

more scores of individual objects of the one or more objects and one or more weights of ~~one~~ two or more attributes of objects.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the score of the object having two or more attributes is a linear combination of one or more weighted attribute values of the object.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the weight generator process computes one or more weights of ~~one~~ two or more attributes of the object by using a score inequality specified by two or more ranks of one or more objects given by one or more users.

14. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein:

the score inequality is provided by:

$$\Sigma_j w_j f(a_{Aj}) > \Sigma_j w_j f(a_{Bj}) > \Sigma_j w_j f(a_{Cj}); \text{ and}$$

a scoring function for calculating the scores is a linear combination of the weighted values of the attributes provided by:

$$S_i = \Sigma_j w_j f(a_{ij}), \text{ for all } i,$$

wherein the number of scores can be any number larger than 1 and

wherein S_i denotes a score of object i, w_j a weight of the attributed j, a_j a value of attribute j of object i, and f( ) a transformation of attribute value aj.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of ranking one or more objects having two or more attributes comprising the steps of:

receiving one or more objects having two or more attributes;

specifying a number and members of ~~the~~ selected objects;

displaying one or more views of the selected objects in one or more visual interfaces;

providing one or more ranks of the selected objects displayed in the one or more visual interfaces;

computing one or more weights of ~~one~~ the two or more attributes of the objects by using one or more ranks specified for the selected objects;

computing one or more scores of one or more objects having two or more attributes by using the computed weights of ~~one~~ the two or more attributes ~~of objects~~;

displaying one or more views of the one or more objects having two or more attributes with one or more scores for individual objects in the one or more visual interfaces; and

displaying one or more weights of the ~~one~~ two or more attributes ~~of the objects~~ in the one or more visual interfaces.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of examining the one or more scores of one or more objects having two or more attributes for decision-making in selecting one or more objects having one or more high scores.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of examining the one or more weights of ~~one~~ the two or more attributes of objects for inspecting the accuracy of one or more weights of ~~one~~ the two or more attributes computed by one or more weight generator processes.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of changing a size and members of the selected objects having two or more attributes, and also changing one or more ranks of the selected objects.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising repeating the steps of claim 15.

20. (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium containing code for ranking one or more objects having two or more attributes, the code implementing the steps of:

receiving one or more objects having two or more attributes;

specifying a number and members of ~~the~~ selected objects;

displaying one or more views of the selected objects in one or more visual interfaces;

providing one or more ranks of the selected objects displayed in the one or more visual interfaces;

computing one or more weights of ~~one~~ the two or more attributes ~~of the objects~~ by using one or more ranks specified for the selected objects;

computing one or more scores of the one or more objects having two or more attributes by using the computed weights of the two ~~one~~ or more attributes ~~of objects~~;

displaying one or more views of the one or more objects having two or more attributes with one or more scores for individual objects in the one or more visual interfaces; and

displaying one or more weights of the ~~one~~ two or more attributes ~~of the objects~~ in the one or more visual interfaces.